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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

There are two freedoms—the false,
where a man is free to do what he
likes; the true, where a man is free
to do what he ought.

Compulsory Education.

There is said to be much opposition on the part of members of the General Assembly to compulsory school attendance. We are told that the race question is the chief stumbling block; that if compulsory education apply to the whites, it must apply also to the blacks, and that if the system be adopted and made to apply to both races, the school population will be vastly increased, which means vastly increased appropriations for schools.

If this argument has any force it means that on the score of economy it is not desirable that all the children in the State attend school; that it is not desirable, indeed, that school attendance be increased. It means that all the children in the State should determine to attend school. Virginia would not be able to supply the means. Is any objection prepared to take that position? Here we are devising all means possible to increase the attendance upon the public schools, yet gentlemen oppose compulsory attendance on the score of economy. It is buncombe, gentlemen, pure buncombe.

But some argue that while it would be well to have all the white children attend school, it is not desirable that all the negro children should do so. If that be true, it is not desirable that any negro children attend school, and all schools for the negro race should be closed. The whole argument is absurd on its face and utterly untenable. If education is good for one, it is good for all. If it is good for one race, it is good for another race. If it is desirable that some of the children should be educated, it is desirable that all the children should be educated, and the plea that the State is not able to supply the means of education for all her children is contemptible. Manifestly it does not represent the dominant sentiment of Virginia. The people have shown their willingness to tax themselves in order that all the children may have an opportunity of gaining a common school education. As for the negro children, no compulsion is necessary to insure their attendance. They are, for the most part, going to school, while many white children are kept at work. That is the pity of it; that is the danger of it. Are we willing that the negro children shall be better educated than the white children?

Most of the objectors fairly foam at the mouth when they talk of the "rights of parents" and the arrogance of the State in undertaking to say what a man shall do with his own child. But, in the name of God and humanity, have the children no rights? Has a miserly father the right to sacrifice his child to his own cupidity? You gentlemen who talk about the rights of parents, do you think you have the right to deprive your child of the opportunity to get an education? That you have the right to condemn your child to everlasting ignorance? Oh, but you say, you do not need any law to make you send your child to school. Quite so. The law is not made to discipline the righteous. A compulsory school attendance law would not worry those parents who are willing to do their duty by their children, but should there not be a law for those who are not?

We believe that Governor Montague has hit upon a happy solution of this entire question. In his message to the Legislature he says:

"IF, HOWEVER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS UNWILLING TO TAKE THIS STEP FOR THE WHOLE STATE, I EARNESTLY RECOMMEND YOUR HONORABLE BODY TO EMPOWER ANY COUNTY OR CITY OF THE STATE WITH THE OPTION OF ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE."

That is local option, and local option is fundamental Democratic doctrine. Let any county or city which wishes to try this plan have the option of doing so. If tried in some of the counties and cities and proven to be advantageous, it will then spread over the whole State.

Does a College Pay.

It seems almost irrelevant to take a commercial view of a school, but this is a practical age and the paramount question in business circles is, will it pay? Richmond is looking out for new enterprises. The most desirable enterprises are those which bring money to the city and keep it here, that is why a factory is so desirable. It makes something and sells it away from here. The price of the article comes home and stays.

In great part, to the men who do the work. The men who receive it spend it for supplies, and it gets into general circulation.

Now, a home college is, in a commercial view, much the same sort of an enterprise as the home factory. It brings students to town. The students pay out their money for board, tuition and supplies. In that way the college brings money to town and keeps it there. It is said that the Woman's College brings at least \$75,000 a year to Richmond. It is estimated that the great Central College which the Baptists propose to establish would bring in from two to three hundred thousand dollars a year if located in Richmond. It is the kind of an institution that Richmond wants and it will pay Richmond to bring it here.

We hate to talk of a school in this cold-blooded fashion. But everybody knows what a desirable institution in other respects is a first class college for girls. We are trying to impress the desirability of the school as a business enterprise.

Read the local item and see what you think of it. Richmond cannot afford to lose the opportunity.

Jail Convicts On the Road.

Our penal system in Virginia is crude, and many reforms are needed. The penitentiary is now in good condition, and the reformatories for boys of both races are well conducted and are doing laudable work. But there is imperative need for houses of refuge and correction for wayward girls, and as for the jail system, it is simply disgraceful. Men and women are taken up for all sorts of petty offenses, fined, and, in default, sent to jail and kept there at the State's expense until they pay or serve out their term, and there are fees at every turn which the State must also pay. We are informed that in one of the cities of Virginia a man was recently convicted of stealing \$15 and fined \$5 for the crime! The entire system should be changed. Some measure should be adopted which will make all such convicts do public work of one sort or another, and so reimburse the State as far as possible for the cost of punishment. That would be both economical and reformatory. It would relieve the State, in part, of an enormous cost, and it would prevent a lot of lazy criminals from loafing in jail and taking their ease at the public expense.

Mr. Withers, of Suffolk, and Mr. Lassiter, of Petersburg, have formulated a plan for working jail convicts on the public roads, which will at least serve the purpose of taking such convicts out of jail and giving them honest and profitable employment—profitable to themselves, if not to the State. Our jails are schools of crime, and it is far better to condemn petty offenders to the public roads than to the public jails.

Their plan in outline is that a State highway commission be created, the head of which shall be a competent civil engineer, with a suitable salary. In case any county should desire to avail itself of State aid under this plan, the State would undertake to map out the work, estimate the cost, and supply the labor, so far as it could be supplied with jail convicts, while the county would pay for the material and the road machinery. The first step to be taken would be for the county to notify the State commissioner that it desired to build a certain road. A blank containing questions would then be sent to the county authorities, filled out and returned to the commissioner, thus giving assurance that the county authorities were in earnest. That done, the commissioner would make a preliminary survey and give an estimate of the cost of material. If the county should then accept the State's offer, the superintendent of the penitentiary would send out his guards to the jails in that section and assemble enough convicts to carry on the work. The convicts would be guarded while at work and in camp by State guards, and the work would be done under the direction of an engineer, whose services would be paid for by the county.

Messrs. Lassiter and Withers claim that the amount now expended by the State in maintaining convicts in the jails would be sufficient to maintain them on the roads and pay all incidental expenses. They propose thus to organize road-working forces in various sections of the State, to be transferred from one county to another, as the demand may be, and eventually to add to the force from time to time convicts from the penitentiary. They think that this is the only practicable method of State aid, as the State is not in financial condition to appropriate large sums of money for road improvements; and that, even if it were in such position, the supply of honest labor would be wanting, as the farmers now find it impossible to procure enough labor to carry on their farm operations.

They say that north of the Potomac the States are co-operating with the counties in road-improvement, and making appropriations in money, conditioned upon like appropriations from the counties and districts, and that south of the Virginia line the State is giving aid by supplying convict labor; but that Virginia has taken no steps in either direction.

The plan which these gentlemen propose is good in principle and would be eminently practicable if a supply of good labor could thus be obtained. But the fatal defect is that good labor does not often go to jail, and we fear that the supply of labor from that source would be so inferior as to be utterly inadequate for the purpose.

However, the plan has this excellent feature: it does not in any way disturb the present system of working the roads; it does not compel any county to adopt the method proposed, but leaves it entirely optional with the county authorities. It opens the opportunity to experiment that the plan is good. At any rate, one point gained would be the highway commission, with a competent engineer at the head of it, whose duties

would be available for mapping out and directing work in the counties, by whatever method adopted.

Growing Flour Trade.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—In the tale of the manufacturers' exhibit, January 1st, an error has been found in the flour, corn-meal, pickle and flavoring section, which total should read, \$5,612.23. This makes the grand total of sales \$70,843,354.

J. H. WHITTY.

January 12, 1906.
While we regret that there should have been an error in Mr. Whitty's original table, we are glad to receive this added evidence of the steady growth and prosperity of Richmond. It is especially gratifying to know that the flour trade of the city is growing as it has done in the last few years.

The steady advances being made by Richmond in all lines of material development are attracting general attention. Our good friend, the Raleigh News and Observer, has become solicitous lest in our figures for last year we failed to do the shoe business justice. It points out that Mr. Whitty's table gave the total sales of manufacturers of boots and shoes, as \$2,574,490, and adds, "The shoe business alone is worth every year above seven millions of dollars, while the number of manufacturers does not exceed a baker's dozen." Our contemporary seems to have fallen into the error of taking the figures of manufacturers as representing the total of sales of boots and shoes. A more careful examination of the subject shows that our figures fully bear out the friendly estimate of the News and Observer. In addition to the \$2,574,490 of sales by manufacturers, our table showing the business done by Richmond jobbers gave their sales of boots and shoes as \$4,287,675, making an aggregate of nearly eight million dollars, or to be exact, \$7,262,165. Truly this is a magnificent exhibit, and one of which Richmond and The Times-Dispatch are justly proud. The business conditions in Richmond to-day are highly gratifying; the prospect for the year just begun is all that could be desired.

Abolish Local Hangings.

Delegate N. E. Spessard, of Allegheny, will introduce a bill providing that all felons condemned to die on the gallows shall be taken to the penitentiary and executed within the silent walls of that institution. It is a reform which The Times-Dispatch has long advocated. Just after McCue was executed in Charlottesville last February, we expressed our view on the subject under discussion in the following article:

"Charlottesville has been through a terrible ordeal, and there is no reason why that or any other community should be compelled to endure for weeks or months such a strain as that which inevitably attends the execution of a prominent, respected and widely known citizen. "It is not necessary to recall the harrowing details of this tragedy in order to show what the effect must have been on the whole community, and especially in the impressionable and young, who were compelled, by the fearful fascination of this case, to which the days of the doomed prisoner slip by. The interest of the whole State is enough to show how absorbing it must have been in Charlottesville, and there is no doubt but that the entire city felt the shock of McCue's execution in a personal way. This ought not to be regarded as a reason in sense, justice, expediency or good morals, why executions should take place in the county or town jail, and there are powerful reasons why they should not. It is an unnecessary and avoidable expense. Charlottesville, for example, paid five dollars a day for extra guards alone. It awakens a morbid and unhealthy interest in such matters, and does not correspondingly add to the dignity of the law or the impressiveness of the sentence. It exposes the judges and the sheriff to numerous and harassing requests for interviews with the prisoner, and enormously increases the opportunity for escape or suicide.

"It tends in many cases to make an almost public spectacle of the most tragic and solemn events possible. "Cases might be greatly multiplied, without strengthening the example of Charlottesville. The proper and sensible course is to have all condemned prisoners sent at once to the State penitentiary for safe keeping and execution, and Virginia should adopt that practice as soon as possible.

"Nothing could be more impressive in a community than for a condemned felon to be taken away by State officials and mysteriously lost in the death chamber of the penitentiary." We earnestly hope that the bill which Mr. Spessard will introduce will become a law.

There is a strong demand that social clubs and distilleries be put on the same footing as saloons. The Times-Dispatch comes out in a firm editorial, setting forth the evil of these mushroom clubs, declaring that they are veritable factories for the manufacture of pauperism. The Mann law has practically banished the saloons from the country districts of Virginia, but the petty distilleries have flanked it, and measure the will of the people, and the plain purpose of this excellent law. We earnestly hope that our Legislature will carry lead with these phases of the Temperance question.—Religious Herald.

The whole question is this: If the Mann law is not a desirable statute, repeal it. If it is, perfect it, and make it effective.

Senator Depew, who announces that he will "soon begin his real work in the Senate, apparently fails to realize that his "real work" does not lie in the Senate, but out in the open trying to live it down.

Mr. Carnegie warns the public against seeking money as an end, precisely as though the public wasn't aware that the end of all money is the spending of it.

It appears that everybody, not excluding father, is in favor of a currency elastic enough to stretch, at least, to the middle of next week.

To be strictly consistent, Mr. Henry H. Rogers ought to leave quite a handsome sum for the endowment of a Home for the Mute.

A civil war is not necessarily a courteous one.

The Wheel of Life,
By ELLEN GLASGOW.

Rhymes for To-Day.

The First Ride Together.

With happy, yet embarrassed look
(Like fair bride's on her day of marriage),

I seized her bag and pocketbook,
And led her gently to the carriage;
And pressing her reluctant hand,
While all my brain was madly humming.

I said in hoarse, yet bland tones, yet bland:
"Ah, how I thank you for this coming!"

Ah, all my brain beat out the thought:
"How bleak this home-return without her!"

And bending near, I gently brought
The carriage robe more close about her;
And then I bent on her a glance
That spoke of deep, deep adulation,
Surcharged with more than young romance,
All wild with pride and admiration.

And she!—She sat all mute and still,
Nor word, nor syllable she uttered;
Nor glance she deigned to me, until,
Near home, she turned and loudly muttered:

"I hate der country," while a look
Of anger on those proud lips played—
She was, I should have said, our cook—
"Wut wages did yez say yer paid?"

—H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Poor Blinky!—Hostess: "Don't you hang!" Mr. Blinks. Blinks: "No—er—I am!" Hostess: "Oh, I'm afraid you wouldn't be heard in this large room. Thanks so much. Terrible disappointment of Blinks, who was simply dying to recite 'Tam o'Shanter'—London Truth.

Correct Story.—"Why did poor Fescades leave directions that a funeral must take place after 6 o'clock in the evening?" "Well, you see, a dress suit was the only decent looking clothes he had left."—Cleveland Leader.

The Only Way.—Knicker: "So Jones has planned a model apartment house?" Bookie: "Yes; the janitor lives on the top floor, so the steam is always on and the elevator always running."—New York Sun.

Rapid Development.—"Isn't it queer how quickly some people develop?" "Yes; there is Miss Flabbybone, for instance. She was a bud only a year ago, and now she is a full-blown wall flower."—Chicago Record-Herald.

When He Gets It.—Yeast: "What happens when your wife loses her temper?" Crismonbeck: "Oh, I get it."—Yonkers Statesman.

A Rumor Confirmed.—The Neutrich family had reached Copenhagen. "Town smells kind of queer," commented Max Neutrich. "I ain't surprised," asserted Paw Neutrich. "Allers heard there wuz authin' rotten in Denmark."—Houston Chronicle.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
January 13th.

1705—A house in London where fireworks were manufactured blew up and destroyed 120 houses and killed fifty persons.

1711—The last number of The Tatler appeared. No. 271.

1738—The famous convention of Pardo signed.

1809—The French, under Marshal Victor defeated the Spanish, under Castanos, at Cuenca.

1811—The British merchant ship, Cumberland, Captain Barrat, beat off four French privateers and took 170 men, who had boarded her.

1814—British and Prussians repulsed in an attack on Antwerp; parts of the suburbs burned.

1817—The ship Georgianna, of Norfolk, experienced a tremendous shock in the Gulf Stream, supposed to be by earthquake; the day was calm.

1848—A severe battle at Chillianwallah, between the British and Sikh forces, without decisive results.

1854—An earthquake at Finana, in Spain, crumbling down the Alcazaba, an ancient Moorish castle, prostrating houses and causing chasms in the streets and loss of lives.

1855—Pierre Soule, the American minister, lost an audience with the Queen of Spain and took leave of the court.

1865—Reports of peace overtures between Presidents Lincoln and Davis set afloat and denied.

1868—The Senate declared by votes thirty-five to six, that they do not concur in the suspension from the office of Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton.

1869—General Meade removed Governor Jenkins of Georgia, and appointed General Ruger as his successor.

1869—The Ohio Legislature withdrew the assent of the State to the proposed fifteenth amendment.

1885—Ex-Vice-President Schuyler Colfax dropped dead in a railway station at Mankato, Minn.

Clay Center's Jack Rabbits.

It is noted that the Ellinwood Jack rabbit cannery is expecting to kill and can 1,000,000 animals this season. Ellinwood is way out in Barton county, where things are done on a smaller scale than in the city. The cannery has been in active operation for more than seven years, and is still as active as ever. However, the by-products have grown to be the larger part of the business. Seal-skin furs are now turned out any color by the thousands. Also rabbit-tail soup. Ground rabbit feet are furnished in quantities to the South by the carloads. Harepills are good sellers, likewise boned rabbit tongues. Rabbit hash finds ready market, as does also pickled spring buns. A nerve tonic from the rejected spinal columns of yearlings does well soon be put on sale. Clay Center is a packing center is before the world in an effort to force the refrigerating companies to accept the product for transportation across the oceans. The beef trust is struggling to the last ditch. But merit will win. There are a few more shares of stock to be sold, not many, and in thirty days the price will be raised to the picture rail. First come, first served. A little more room on the ground floor. Clay Center (Kansas) Times.

THE LATEST BOOKS
UNDER BRIEF REVIEW.

THE STORM SIGNAL.—By Gustave F.

Mertins. Pp. 436. \$1.50. Babbs, Merrill Company, Indianapolis.

There is some unusually good work in this story. Our chief criticism on it is that it is rather longer than necessary, and that the incidents of the plot are not always very closely strung together. Martin Wentworth's fight with the ring and interestingly done as it is neither grows inevitably out of the main action as a vital part of it, nor does it lead anywhere, but it is a natural outgrowth of the life history of Slim Simpson, which is virtually a separate, absorbing and well conceived, but without close bond with the principal narrative. Even in the chapter entitled, "The Venetian of Slim Simpson," where Simpson does not touch the main narrative, he acts the same way as some of the other characters would have acted, thus discounting the force of his really striking past. To justify the space devoted to Simpson's personal history, Mr. Mertins should have given him a role at this time which no other could have played. None the less, there is a great deal in this book that is really admirable. It is a tale of life in a little Alabama town of to-day. The negro "question" is touched on lightly, yet frankly and forcibly. The negro himself occupies a conspicuous place in these pages. Parenthetically, we may comment that Mr. Mertins, on his successful dialects. He has caught both the lingo and mannerisms of the darky very well, and, on the other hand, has made his educated white folks talk the straight English language instead of a Senegambian patois so frequently put into their mouths by well-meaning, but erring writers. From this we conclude that Mr. Mertins is Southern himself. Acting under the guidance of a clever colored clergyman and a degraded brute, named Red Shirt, the negro organizes a secret society, which culminates in a great uprising. An advance tip to the whites and time prevents a general massacre. There is a night attack, and the negroes were repulsed. This episode reminds a good deal of a similar idea in the Mississippi novel of a year ago, the name escapes us at the minute—but Mr. Emerson thought so.

The love story involves Martin Wentworth and two girls—Virginia and Jessica. All three are attractive, and their story is unique. Martin starts out by hating Virginia and liking Jessica. He knew that he could kiss Jessica one night, and was very near doing so, but was up by liking Jessica and loving Virginia.

THE AWAKENING.—By C. Wickliffe Yule. Pp. 279. \$1.25. Neale Publishing Co., Washington.
The story is a study of life in Washington in the eighties. Rather familiar both in general theme and in its characters, and displaying no marked originality of any sort, it is nevertheless a good, sufficient skill to avert ennui. Mr. Yule has ability, and with a less conventional plot, and a freer use of the blue pencil, could have written a good story. The hero is Hon. Arthur Montrose, of London, England, son of the Earl of Broadlands, touring the country for the fun of the thing. Montrose is not always a particularly convincing, but the good-natured reader will judge him leniently. On the steamer he meets a good-looking girl, including the common Thompsons and the charming and lovely Widow Rae. The scene soon shifts to Washington, where Montrose becomes involved in a love affair with Mrs. Morton. Mrs. Morton is the story villainess. Flirtations with good-looking men, she has bread and meat to her, and this, despite the fact that she is alive and more than willing to be flirted with by her husband, a pretty mix-up ending in a divorce. The heroine is a girl named Virginia, a pretty girl, a good-looking and genuine as an old family portrait. These three women play important parts in the story, and the heroine's life is a happy path. The theme is somewhat slight to be spread over so many pages, but the telling is graceful and easy, and the freshness of the story, and the reader's interest. Mrs. Yule, who died recently, is best remembered as the author of the "Pa Gladden" stories.

THE MENACE OF PRIVILEGE.—By Elizaabeth Cherry Waltz. Pp. 283. \$1.50. McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. For sale here by Dell Book and Stationery Co.
The almost indissoluble strength of the marriage bond in Kentucky furnishes the thesis for this story. This, we take it, is the ancient landmark which the author has chosen to build upon. Lucian Beasley, of Kentucky descent, goes to the Blue Grass State to buy horses. Here he runs into a country girl, named Dulcinea, a pretty, dusky girl, who turns out to be his own distant cousin. He is being brutally treated by her husband, a doctor, who is devoted to opium and cocaine. The profound sympathy of the entire community goes to Dulcinea, but nothing else. To interfere between the husband and wife would be an unpardonable offence, and the question of divorce is only mentioned with shrinking and horror. So De Witt is taking the will of Dulcinea, with the utmost immunity. Lucian, however, was bred up under different ideas, and the broken up community disapproves him. He determines to devote himself to the freeing of his fair cousin. The difficulties he met, and they were considerable, are the basis of the story. But it ends satisfactorily. Facts come thick and fast, and the reader is kept guessing which make even the rigid Kentuckians feel that a divorce was at least allowable. Dulcinea, at last, finds a happier path. The theme is somewhat slight to be spread over so many pages, but the telling is graceful and easy, and the freshness of the story, and the reader's interest. Mrs. Yule, who died recently, is best remembered as the author of the "Pa Gladden" stories.

GUSTAVE F. MERTINS,
author of "The Storm Signal" (Bobb's Merrill Co., Indianapolis).

Meanwhile it is tolerably evident that both girls have fallen in love with him. Because either that or Martin's death is the note incident in "The Marriage of William Ashe." Jessica, perceiving how things were going between Martin and Virginia, decides to leave him, and at all costs. So she tells Virginia in strict confidence, that she, Jessica, is engaged to a man, from whom she is withal over-sensitively and heartily desirous to keep away. Virginia promises. That was, perhaps, as near a wicked lie as is possible for a girl to tell. Moreover, it is impossible to believe that Jessica, so kind and lovable as she had shown herself to be, should have told it, and with so little compunction. Mr. Mertins, however, assures us that she did, and he, like many others, did not believe him, and was finally only recalled because in time it became either that or Martin's death.

An able, vigorous and strongly written story which in many respects has pleased us highly.

THE MENACE OF PRIVILEGE.—By Henry George, Jr. Pp. 421. \$1.50 net.

The Macmillan Co., New York.

One of the best of those works on the social organism of to-day, with which the Macmillans in particular have been doing so much to popularize the study of modern economics. In "The Menace of Privilege," Mr. George has written an able and interesting study. His theme has been brought so near to the hour that it includes data so recent as testimony given before the Monopoly and Privilege committee. Mr. George believes that "privilege" lies at the bottom of most, if not all, of the evils so apparent in our body social to-day. He shows, in his own words, "how privileges granted or sanctioned by government underlie the social and political, mental and moral manifestations that appal and oppress in the republic." Continuing, he says: "The monopoly of natural opportunities, heavy taxes upon production, private ownership of public highways, and other lesser privileges, cause the great inequalities in the distribution of wealth which are evident all about. For these are not powers to produce, but powers to consume."

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One of the best of those works on the social organism of to-day, with which the Macmillans in particular have been doing so much to popularize the study of modern economics. In "The Menace of Privilege," Mr. George has written an able and interesting study. His theme has been brought so near to the hour that it includes data so recent as testimony given before the Monopoly and Privilege committee. Mr. George believes that "privilege" lies at the bottom of most, if not all, of the evils so apparent in our body social to-day. He shows, in his own words, "how privileges granted or sanctioned by government underlie the social and political, mental and moral manifestations that appal and oppress in the republic." Continuing, he says: "The monopoly of natural opportunities, heavy taxes upon production, private ownership of public highways, and other lesser privileges, cause the great inequalities in the distribution of wealth which are evident all about. For these are not powers to produce, but powers to consume."

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